

2007 Fact Sheet

Profiles of Staff and Volunteers for North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start

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North Dakota Head Start

North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start Staff and Volunteer Profiles Highlights

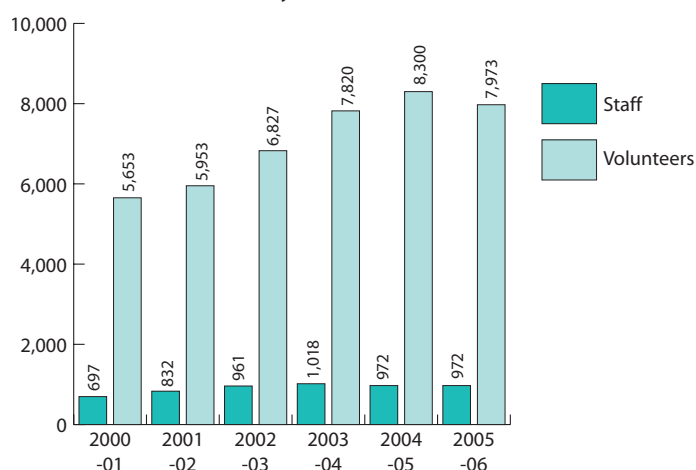
- Volunteers decline after record year; staff numbers are stable
- Head Start child development staff are well educated
- Head Start teacher and assistant teacher salaries decline
- Teacher turnover improves
- Head Start parents are active as staff and volunteers



Volunteers Decline After Record Year; Staff Numbers Are Stable

The total number of North Dakota Head Start staff remained stable from 2004-05 through 2005-06 (972 staff members). Staff members had increased from 697 in 2000-01 to 1,018 in 2003-04. Total staff incorporates an array of full-time and part-time workers who provide services for Head Start children. During the 2004-05 enrollment year, the total number of persons providing any volunteer services to North Dakota Head Start programs reached a record 8,300 persons. The number of volunteers declined slightly in 2005-06 to 7,973.

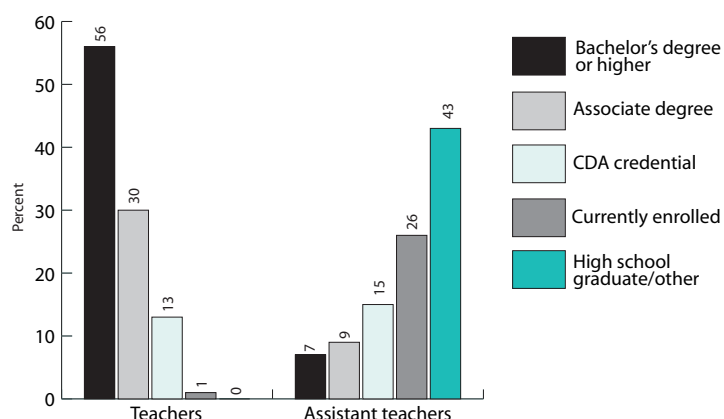
Figure 1. Number of Staff and Volunteers for North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start, 2000-2006



Head Start Child Development Staff Are Well Educated

More than half (56%) of North Dakota Head Start teachers had a bachelor's or graduate degree in 2005-06. An additional 30% had an associate degree in early childhood education or a related program while 13% had a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. Close to one-third (31%) of assistant teachers had obtained either a bachelor's degree, associate degree, or CDA credential. An additional 26% of assistant teachers were currently enrolled in college or CDA training in 2005-06.

Figure 2. Percent of Teachers and Assistant Teachers in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Educational Attainment, 2005-06



Data Source:

Data obtained from Head Start Program Information Reports, 2000-2006.

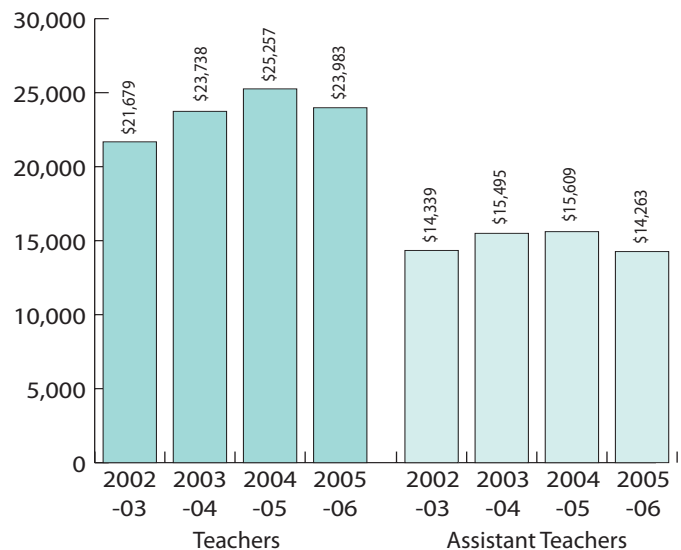
Our Mission

The goal of Head Start is to increase the social competence of children in low-income families and children with disabilities, and to improve their chances for school success.

Head Start Teacher and Assistant Teacher Salaries Decline

Following several years of improvement in salaries, the average salary for North Dakota Head Start teachers declined to \$23,983 in 2005-06. North Dakota Head Start assistant teachers earned an average salary of \$14,263 in 2005-06, which also represented a decline from the average assistant teacher salary in 2004-05. The average annual income for North Dakota workers was \$32,440 in May 2006 (U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2006).

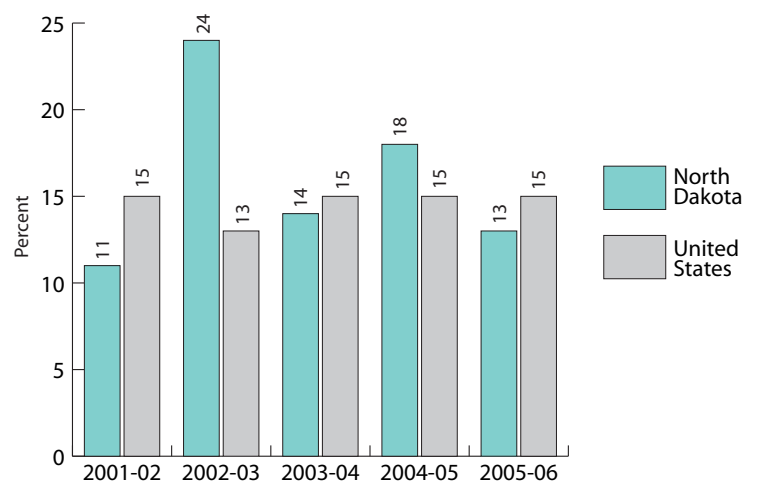
Figure 3. Average Salary of North Dakota Head Start Teachers and Assistant Teachers, 2002-2006



Teacher Turnover Improves

The effects of teacher turnover have been more severe at times in North Dakota than in the nation overall, encompassing almost one quarter of all North Dakota Head Start teachers (24%) in 2002-03. However, teacher turnover rates in North Dakota were 18% in 2004-05 and 13% in 2005-06. Over the past several years, Head Start teacher turnover has been a significant issue for programs across the nation. Between 13% and 15% of the nation's Head Start teachers have left their jobs each year.

Figure 4. Percent of Head Start Teachers Who Left Their Jobs, North Dakota and the United States, 2001-2006



Head Start Parents Are Active as Staff and Volunteers

While the total number of volunteers for Head Start programs declined from 8,300 in 2004-05 to 7,973 in 2005-06, former or current Head Start parents or guardians remained an important source of volunteer assistance. More than half of North Dakota Head Start volunteers from 2001 to 2006 were persons who were current or former Head Start parents or guardians. In addition, current or former Head Start parents comprised between 38% and 41% of North Dakota Head Start staff from 2001 to 2006.

Figure 5. Percent of North Dakota Head Start Staff and Volunteers Who are Former or Current Head Start Parents, 2001-2006

